(a) the details of funds allocated by Government to the State of Uttarakhand for rural development in the last five years;

(b) whether any policy has been formulated by Government separately for hilly States;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) The Central allocation to Uttarakhand under major allocation based rural development programmes namely Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), Samproona Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) and Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) of the Ministry of Rural Development during last five years (2003-04 to 2007-08) is Rs. 1152.29 Crore. The other programmes including National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme (NREGP) is demand based, thus, no allocation is made.

(b) to (d) In the programmes being implemented by the Ministry, special care have been given to meet the need of difficult areas including hill areas and the people residing therein. Under PMGSY, the population of all habitations within a radius of 500 metres (1.5 km of path distance in case of Hills) are clubbed together for the purpose of determining the population size. In the blocks bordering international boundaries in the hill States (as identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs) all habitations within a path distance of 10 km. may be treated as cluster for this purpose. This cluster approach would enable provision of connectivity to a larger number of Habitations, particularly in the hill/mountainous areas. Under SGSY, Self-Help Group (SHG) may consist of 10 to 20 persons. However, in difficult areas like deserts, hills and areas with scattered population and in case of minor irrigation and disabled persons, this number may be from 5-20. In case of IAY, assistance provided is Rs. 38500 in difficult/hilly areas, as against Rs. 35000 in normal areas.

Irregularities in poverty eradication programme and NREGA in Assam

376. KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the C&AG has pointed out many irregularities regarding the funds of poverty eradication programme and NREGA in Assam and has given its recommendations in this regard; and

(b) what concrete action has been taken by Government so far indicating the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) On the request of the Ministry of Rural Development, C&AG had undertaken a performance audit of the implementation of NREGA for the year 2006-07 covering

68 districts of 26 States including 2 districts of Assam. Observations made by C&AG in its report in respect of Assam are as under:

(i) State share was not released within 15 days of the release of Central Funds.

(ii) The Programme Officer/BDO did not submit utilization certificate for utilization of at least 60% of funds at their disposal while applying for the next installment.

(iii) While demanding additional funds, the Gram Panchayats did not furnish the report of the Village Monitoring Committee duly approved by the Gram Sabha.

(iv) No cases of diversion and irregular expenditure was found in Assam.

C&AG in his report has recommended that State Government should ensure timely release of their share and issue necessary instructions to ensure that NREGS funds are not diverted or mis-utilized. It has also recommended that in order to guard against any malpractice, the State Government should ensure that the monthly squaring of accounts is regularly conducted.

(b) The Government of Assam has issued instructions to District Programme Coordinators to adhere to the requirements of the NREGA Guidelines for management of NREGA funds. The Government of India closely monitors the release of funds to the States.

Allocation of funds under PMGSY to Assam

377. KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total funds allocated to Assam under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) from 2001-2009 and percentage of utilisation;

(b) the total length of the road in Kilometer constructed during 2001-2009 district-wise in Assam;

(c) whether there is allegation of misuse of such funds in Assam; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) Allocation (diesel cess) under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for Assam is Rs. 1089 crore for the period 2001 to 2009. So far, Rs. 2401.32 crore has been released to Assam under PMGSY including the assistance from Asian Development Bank (ADB). An expenditure of Rs. 2125.80 crore has been reported by the State Government upto December, 2008.

(b) Construction of 5201.86 km. has been completed under PMGSY upto December, 2008 in Assam. For implementation and monitoring of PMGSY, the State is considered as a unit and district-wise details are not maintained by the Ministry. The information in respect of road works taken up under PMGSY are also available on the website ***www.ommas.nic.in.***